



Princess Alexandra Hospital
Perioperative Services

Graduate Nurse Program

Perioperative Services

Perioperative Services at Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) is made up of 23 operating theatres. The department consists of 8 units including:

- Pre-Admission Clinic (PAC)
- Surgical Care Unit (SCU)
- Anaesthetic Care Unit (ACU)
- Central Sterilising Department (CSD)
- Operating Theatre (OT)
- Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (PACU)
- Day Surgery and Treatment Unit (DSTU)
- Acute Pain Service (APS)

The department performs approximately 21,000 operations a year from a variety of specialties including:

- Cardiothoracic
- Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)
- Facio-Maxillary
- General Surgery
- Gynaecology
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic
- Trauma
- Transplant
- Urology
- Vascular

The department consists of two Perioperative Nurse Educators (PNE) that manage the Transition Support Program (Perioperative) for graduate nurses. In addition to this, the PNEs provide ongoing support and development to over 350 nursing staff within the perioperative department.

Transition support program

The Transition Support Program is a 12-month program that consists of clinical rotations in SCU, ACU, OT, and PACU. It supports recently graduated nurses, transition from novice to independent practitioners.

Program content and assessment

The program's content is delivered through six self-directed modules relevant to each unit which include:

- Essentials of Perioperative Nursing Care (Phase 1)
- Essentials of Perioperative Nursing Care (Phase 2)
- Perianaesthesia Nursing Practice, which consists of 3 components:
 - Part A - Fundamentals of Perianaesthesia Nursing Practice
 - Part B - Anaesthetic Nursing Care Practice
 - Part C - Post Anaesthetic Nursing Care Practice
- Intraoperative Nursing Care Practice

Assessment of theory and practice form part of the program which involves the completion of two assignments and Clinical Performance Assessment Tools (CPATs) for each specialty rotation.

Graduate support

Nurse graduates are provided ongoing support by the Perioperative Nurse Educators and unit Clinical Facilitators. Regular peer groups and study days are also held throughout the year to provide further support and development.



Outcomes and objectives

By the end of the 12-months, perioperative nurse graduates will:

- Gain fundamental knowledge and skills for each specialty unit.
- Practice according to NSQHS Standards, ACORN standards, unit-specific guidelines and hospital policies/procedures/work instructions.
- Deliver safe, quality patient-centred care throughout the patient's perioperative journey.
- Demonstrate commitment to ongoing self-development and growth.
- Receive a certificate of completion and transcript which can contribute to advanced standing towards post-graduate studies.

More information

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Search "graduate programs" at

metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au.

